

STRATEGIC PRAYER**Part 5 of “Conversations with God” Sermon Series.****Romans 15: 30-33****Starter:**

As we come to the close of the Sermon Series “Conversations with God” let us recap some of the main themes of the Sermon Series and Continue to Explore the theme of Prayer.

Ask for the group for definitions the word Prayer. Example: Conversation with God, Giving thanks to God, Paying attention to God. Prayer is the practice of the presence of God. It is the place where pride is abandoned, hope is lifted, and supplications/requests are made. Prayer is the place of admitting our need, of adopting humility, and claiming dependence upon God.

What are examples some of the well known prayers. Example: “Our Father”, Some National Anthems, Ps. 23, Make me an instrument of your Peace”

THE INTENT IS TO MOVE FROM SPECTATORS TO PARTICIPANTS!

Read: Romans 15:30-33

Paul’s prayer was short but packed with valuable lessons. It was a personal letter to the believers in Rome. It expressed his fears, struggles and the need for the prayer and support of other believers. Let us be earnest in prayer with and for each other, that for Christ’s sake, and by the love of the Holy Spirit, great blessings may come upon the souls of Christians, and the labours of ministers.

It is sometimes necessary to be STRATEGIC in our prayers to God. It is sometimes a STRUGGLE and Prayers are more effective when we are SPECIFIC in our requests.

Discussion points:

1. Paul was being emphatic in his request to the believers that they pray for him.
What are some of the words used to emphasize his need for their prayer and support?
(*urge/ beseech, join me, pray for me, partnership in prayer*)
2. Re-read verse 30. The highlight is that Prayer is sometimes a STRUGGLE. An agonizing experience. The bible speaks of the Holy Spirit helping us when we pray. When we do not know how to pray the Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf in accordance with the will of God.
3. Sometimes Prayer is a STRIVING AGAINST.
Sometimes it is a STRIVING FOR.
Read: Ephesians 6:12
For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

What are some examples of things you have prayed for?

e.g. Pray for wisdom, healing, anointing of peace, understanding, gift of effective communication, gifts of the Holy Spirit, unity.

What are some examples of things you have prayed against?

Pray against misunderstandings and misrepresentation, sickness,

What are some examples in the Bible where people prayed for things or prayed against things?

(Jacob, David, Moses, Joshua, Epaphras, Jesus (Col 4:12))

4. Our Prayers should be SPECIFIC. Read Romans 15:31
*(James 4:2 You do **not** have because you do **not** ask God.)*

What are some specific things that Paul Prayed for and we should also pray for ourselves and others?

1. Pray for Safety – Preservation and protection
 2. Pray for Success – Favour in All areas of our lives;
 3. Pray for Satisfaction – Joy, Refreshing and Rest.
5. What are the ultimate results/effect of prayer?

Payer Stabilizes us.

Read verse 15: 33

Prayer grants us:

GOD'S PEACE – Shalom – absence of war, being received and understood

GOD'S PRESENCE – “I am with you always”

GOD'S POWER – Amen – So let God's will be done.

Diving Deeper:

Recap and Practice what you have learned over the past 5 weeks about Prayers and conversations with God.

Questions:

Why do you pray? How do you pray? How does answered prayer work? What are the results of prayer?

Throughout this week practice praying specific prayers. Watch and listen for God's answers.

Remember God's answers are always the best answers. He sometimes says “Yes, No, or not now/wait”. Keep a journal of answered prayers; this can be a useful tool to share your testimony with others.